

May 2, 1973

(Start Belt #11)

general file for today. I'll rule for now that we'll take these in the order that we first decided to which would be LB 17, then LR 23 and 542 and 573, then those other bills that are specifically bracketed if that is agreeable with Senator Carpenter. If it's not, we'll have to vote on it. Senator Carpenter indicates it is agreeable with him so we'll now take up LB 172.

CLERK: Legislative Bill 172. Introduced by Frank Lewis of the 45th district. (read). There are committee amendments by Senator Warner's Education Committee. There are amendments to the committee amendments. The first one is by Senator Warner (read)

SPEAKER: Senator Warner:

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I'd move adoption of the amendment to the committee amendment. All this does is the clarification in the language. Let me explain that the committee amendment would allocate the additional revenue, half as foundation, half as equalization aid. There was some concern with those who read the language of the bill that it was not perfectly clear as to that intent so the committee amendment has no impact upon the bill other than clarification of the language. That should not be controversial, Mr. President.

SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Question is shall we adopt the Warner amendment to the committee amendment? All those in favor say aye--excuse me, Senator Frank Lewis, did you want--all those in favor say aye. All opposed no. Amendment is adopted.

CLERK: Okay now, we have some further amendments to the standing committee amendment offered by Senator Frank Lewis. (read)

SPEAKER: Senator Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. President and Members of the Legislature. What this amendment does to the standing committee reports is reinstates the original language of my bill to provide \$20,000,000 for equalization. I have distributed to you a--data on the sixty largest school districts in Nebraska showing the effects, both with the committee amendment and the effects on your district with the amendment that I have just offered. I certainly don't want to belabor the point but I would like to remind you of four or five things in regard to State Aid to Education. First, let me tell you that it was in 1967 that 448 was conceived to provide a workable State aid plan. That bill was commended by a large number of people because it basically provided two sections. It provided for foundation which is simply across-the-board aid regardless of the wealth of the district and then, of course, it provided for equalization. However, in the wisdom of the Legislature, they saw fit only to give \$25,000,000 for school assistance, twelve of which was to directly replace the old intangible tax. In 1969 additional money was added to bring it to the present level of funding at \$35,000,000. That money at that time was again split, increasing foundation and still not fully funding equalization. The present bill provides 100% funding from foundation since the inception of the bill, and it provides at this time only 24% for equalization. Now that might--address myself to a couple of questions here in regard to the amendment and then I'll close and try to make it as brief as possible. Number 1, the purpose of introducing \$20,000,000 this year was I thought that was a realistic figure. I thought those dollars were available and they are available. The purpose of putting that money into equalization is to provide that money where the relief is needed now. We have, in this